

Thus, we are not including this program in our investigation.

8. *Reduced electricity rates.* Petitioners provided a 1994 Price Waterhouse publication entitled *Doing Business in South Africa* which indicates that companies in energy-intensive industries may negotiate special tariffs with the relevant authority and/or the Electricity Supply Commission (ESKOM), a state enterprise. In the 1993 investigation of certain steel products from South Africa, petitioners also alleged that steel producers in South Africa may benefit from special electricity rates that can be negotiated with ESKOM, but the Department did not initiate an investigation of electricity rates. See *1993 Initiation*, 58 FR 32515. The statement from in Price Waterhouse publication contains no new information or evidence of changed circumstances which would warrant a reexamination of electricity rates in South Africa. Thus, we are not including this program in our investigation.

9. *World-Player Scheme.* According to IDC publications provided in the petition, this scheme makes low-interest financing available to manufacturers for the acquisition of fixed assets (machinery and equipment) in order to improve their competitiveness following changes in the tariff protection policy. The description of the World-Player Scheme itself does not indicate that the scheme is designed to promote exports; rather, it indicates that its focus is to assist companies competing with imports. In addition, although the IDC publications indicate that the scheme is available to manufactures whose total nominal import tariff rates have decreased by ten percentage points, petitioners have not provided information indicating that changes in tariffs rates are limited to a specific enterprise or industry, or group thereof.

#### Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 702(b)(4)(A)(i) of the Act, copies of the public version of the petition have been provided to the representatives of Belgium, Italy, Korea, and South Africa. We will attempt to provide copies of the public version of the petition to all the exporters named in the petition, as provided for under section 351.203(c)(2) of the Department's regulations.

#### ITC Notification

Pursuant to section 702(d) of the Act, we have notified the ITC of these initiations.

#### Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will determine by May 15, 1998, whether there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured, or is threatened with material injury, by reason of imports of stainless steel plate in coils from Belgium, Italy, the Republic of Korea, and the Republic of South Africa. A negative ITC determination will, for any country, result in the investigation being terminated with respect to that country; otherwise, the investigations will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

This notice is published pursuant to section 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: April 20, 1998.

**Robert S. LaRussa,**

*Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042098B]

##### Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit (PHF# 898-1451)

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that Attractions Hawaii, P.O. Box 1060, Pacific Davies Center, Honolulu, Hawaii 96808, has applied in due form for a permit to take Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) for purposes of scientific research and enhancement.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before May 28, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 713-2289;

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (562) 980-4001; and

Protected Species Program Manager, Pacific Islands Area Office, 2570 Dole Street, Room 106, Honolulu, HI 9682-2396 (808) 973-2987.

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request, should

be submitted to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile at (301) 713-0376, provided the facsimile is confirmed by hard copy submitted by mail and postmarked no later than the closing date of the comment period. Please note that comments will not be accepted by e-mail or by other electronic media.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeannie Drevenak, (301) 713-2289.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23).

The application is for the permanent transfer of five (5) currently captive, unreleasable adult Hawaiian monk seals to Sea Life Park Hawaii for research and enhancement purposes. The primary objective of the proposed activity is to make the seals available for scientific research on an opportunistic basis in order to benefit the wild population of Hawaiian monk seals. A secondary objective is to increase public awareness of the status of the Hawaiian monk seal through education efforts and by providing an opportunity to observe the species in captivity.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: April 22, 1998.

**Ann D. Terbush,**

*Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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